Georgetown post #2

EXCISE

827

E

BG

Georgetown, Guyana

March 23, 1988

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your letter of March 1, 1978 concerning the People's Temple. Our Consul, Mr. Mc Coy, is presently out of Guyana so I am answering on his behalf.

We are familiar with the organization and the allegations made against the People's Temple. As a result of the controversy surrounding the group's move to Guyana, Mr. Mc Coy has made several trips to the community, mainly at the request of relatives seeking information on the welfare of the church's members. During these visits, he has been unable to substantiate any of the accusations made against the organization's hierarchy. His meetings with individual members of the group have been amicable and he has not noted signs of any duress on the members.

BG

I wish I could be more helpful to you in this matter. Please be assured, however, that should your son come to Guyana, the Officers of the Embassy will render him every appropriate assistance at his request.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Mason
American Vice Consul

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DMarl DATE 3/2/87
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

March 1, 1978

To Whom it May Concern:

My son has been involved in a religious cult, The People's Temple, with Rev. Jim Jones, for almost three years. He now tells me that he is seriously considering going to Guyana, to work in the agricultural colony there, established and run by Jones.

I am very concerned and worried for his safety and well being, as I have read all the adverse publicity Jones has received, and have talked to former temple members, who say that Jones takes the passports of members, and sells them on the black market. Jones claims to heal cancer and raise people from the dead, and I have also heard of beatings and other perverted practices within the church. I know, too, that Jones is being investigated by the District Attorney's office in San Francisco, and also the State Department.

Since my son is almost twenty-five, there is no legal way I can stop him from going, but still, as a mother, I'm extremely worried.

I would greatly appreciate any information you could give me concerning your observations of the Church colony there in Guyana.

Thank you so much for your help, in whatever you are able to do.

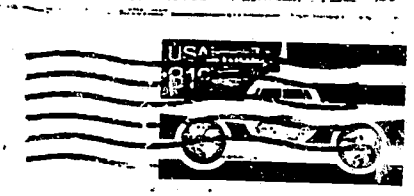
Sincerely,

[redacted]

P.S. It was at the suggestion of my state senator's office that I am writing to you.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MAR 1 : 1978
GEORGETOWN

[redacted]



United States Embassy
31 Main St.
[redacted] Guyana